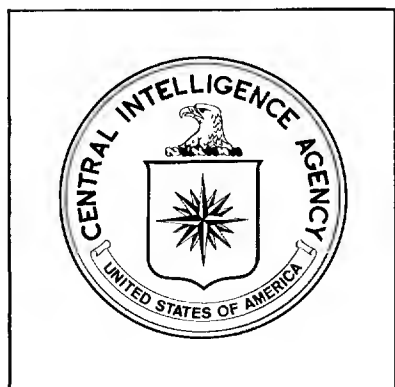


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STAFF NOTES:

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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Greek-Turkish Actions Foster Likelihood of
Serious Incidents

The likelihood of a serious incident in the Aegean is growing as Greece and Turkey appear increasingly willing to risk a confrontation to back up their "conflicting" claims in the area.

The US embassy in Athens was informed by the Greek government that two Turkish aircraft violated Greek airspace yesterday, while another 18 Turkish planes flew a patrol nearby. Greek aircraft on patrol in the area were ordered by higher authorities not to engage the Turkish planes. Antiaircraft batteries on the islands did open fire, but apparently were not effective.

The Turks, meanwhile, reportedly are planning to "take strong retaliatory action" to any Greek attempts to intercept Turkish aircraft.

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recent Turkish flights over the Greek islands in the eastern Aegean were photoreconnaissance missions. that these flights are likely to continue. The Turks are said to be targeting the locations of Greek military concentrations so that if the Greeks open fire on Turkish planes, the Turkish air force can effectively bomb them. Turkish pilots also are said to be anxious to engage in air battles with Greek interceptors, although senior generals as well as Prime Minister Demirel probably would try to avoid a serious clash.

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A recent war gaming scenario developed at the Turkish Army War College and the reported establishment of an Aegean command provides insight into Turk contingency plans for a possible confrontation with Greece over the Aegean issue.

The scenario, played at the war college in mid-March, began with an assumed failure by the two nations to reach agreement on the Aegean issue, thus prompting the Turks to move amphibious forces into staging areas. Greece responded by reinforcing the Aegean islands and massing troops near the Turkish border in Thrace. Ankara then launched a preemptive and simultaneous attack on the Greek mainland through Thrace and against the easternmost islands. Actual force structures derived from NATO documents were used by the students in preparing the scenario.

Further evidence of Turkish planning for contingency operations is the reported creation of an army-level Aegean command at Izmir. It would facilitate the rapid deployment of troops and improve command-and-control capabilities in the event of a confrontation with Greece.

The Turkish press has increased coverage of the Greek reinforcement of islands in the Aegean, and government officials have protested the fortification of the Dodecanese Islands--a violation of the 1947 Treaty of Paris. The Aegean issue could prove to be a strong rallying point for consolidating support for the new Turkish government because it is a national problem, transcending factional differences. It could also serve to distract public attention from more contentious domestic problems. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/No Dissem Abroad/Background Use Only/Controlled Dissem)

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Portuguese Parties to Respond to Constitutional Plans Today

Lisbon's political parties are to respond today to the Armed Forces Movement's proposals for a new constitution that will formalize military domination of the government for at least three to five years.

The details of the proposals, termed "guidelines for a transitional constitution," have not yet been released. The "guidelines" were drawn up by the Revolutionary Council, however, and almost certainly include a constitutional provision formalizing the Council's role as the principal policy-making body.

Negotiations between the Movement and the political parties on the military's future role in politics were suspended following the coup attempt on March 11. The Socialist and Popular Democratic parties may continue to oppose giving the military permanent political dominance, but it is highly unlikely that their opposition will sway the military from its decision to retain power. A military spokesman told reporters that no sanctions were foreseen against those parties that failed to ratify the pact.

In the meantime, the campaign for the election of the assembly that is charged with writing the constitution has proceeded with only minor incidents since its official opening on April 2. A revolutionary student organization allied with a recently banned extreme leftist party charged that its headquarters has been attacked by the Communists. The Communist Party countered by charging that the students had besieged Communist offices, sending several party members to the hospital. (Confidential)

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Greeks Warn Turkey to Stop Overflights
in Aegean

The Greek government has informed our embassy in Athens that it is lodging a strong protest in Ankara against unauthorized Turkish overflights of Greek islands on Thursday. The protest may go beyond an earlier Greek warning to the Turks that said that in the event of further overflights Athens would take "all legitimate measures" allowed under international law. The Greeks are considering including in the demarche a warning that Greek aircraft will intercept Turkish aircraft if there are any further incidents. Athens will accompany its protest in Ankara with a series of parallel demarches in a number of other capitals.

The Turks, meanwhile, continue to deny any violations of Greek airspace. The press in Ankara announced yesterday that the Turkish air force will continue its flights in international airspace over the Aegean. It said Athens would be responsible for the "serious consequences" if it attacked Turkish aircraft. (Confidential No Foreign Dissem/Background Use Only)

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